



GRETCHEN WHITMER

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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY, MINORITY VICE-CHAIR

EDUCATION, MINORITY VICE-CHAIR

FINANCE

AGRICULTURE

October 30, 2009

East Lansing Education Foundation
841 Timberlane, Suite A
East Lansing, MI 48823

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the enclosed check as a contribution to the East Lansing Education Foundation.

I have strongly opposed and voted against disinvesting in education for our children as a means of solving Michigan's budget crisis. Unfortunately, earlier this month, my legislative colleagues approved a K-12 School Aid budget that drastically cuts funding to schools across our state. Those cuts were compounded by the additional elimination of specific categorical funds that disproportionately affect East Lansing Public Schools.

As a Michigan legislator, I am constitutionally provided with a monthly expense allotment for expenses related to in-district work. My contribution today is the full amount of that allotment for October. I am working to enact reforms that would require additional reductions in pay and benefits for lawmakers, including a measure that would pro-rate legislative pay every time a pro-rata is issued to schools.

I cannot, in good conscience, accept this allotment while my colleagues balance our state's budget on the backs of our children. While this contribution is certainly not enough to make schools whole, it is something to reflect the importance of your efforts to provide children a quality education necessary for the world of tomorrow.

Hopefully, together we can fight to adequately fund our schools and fix what is broken in Lansing. Thank you again for all of your work on behalf of our young people.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer